

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 078864
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO OAU COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

XMT AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 078864

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 1002 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
BONN DAR ES SALAAM GENEVA LAGOS LUSAKA LONDON MOSCOW NEW DELHI
OTTAWA PARIS PORT LOUIS PRETORIA CAPE TOWN 02 APR 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN QPPW

PARIS FOR SECRETARY

GENEVA FOR MAYNES

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.OO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UN, UNSC, SF, WA

SUBJECT: UNSC DEBATE ON SOUTH AFRICA

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SUMMARY: IN APPEARANCE BEFORE AFRICA GROUP AMB YOUNG
SUGGESTED THAT AFRICANS HAD NOTHING TO LOSE BY SUPPORT OF
SC DECLARATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA AND MIGHT SEE SOME PROGRESS;
ON THE OTHER HAND, INSISTENCE ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WHICH
DID NOT ENJOY WESTERN SUPPORT OR INSISTENCE ON
INCLUSION OF LANGUAGE OBJECTIONABLE TO KEY WESTERN COUNTRIES

WOULD ONLY RESULT IN THE STALEMATE WHICH SECURITY COUNCIL HAS EXPERIENCED ON SOUTHERN AFRICA IN RECENT YEARS.
END SUMMARY.

1. AMB YOUNG, ACCOMPANIED BY MCHENRY, MET WITH AFRICAN GROUP AT THEIR REQUEST TO DISCUSS DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. PRIOR TO MEETING RAMPHUL, OAU HEAD AND MAURITIUS PERM REP. ASKED AMB YOUNG TO EMPHASIZE PHILOSOPHY BEHIND DECLARATION AS THIS BEING LOST SIGHT OF BY AFRICANS.

2. AMB YOUNG SUGGESTED THAT TIME HAD COME FOR SECURITY COUNCIL, WHERE MAJOR POWERS PRESENT, TO AGGRESSIVELY PURSUE PEACE INSTEAD OF SIMPLY PASS RESOLUTIONS AS HAD BECOME COMMON PRACTICE OF SC AND OTHER UN BODIES. WHILE NO SOLUTION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA QUESTIONS WAS IMMEDIATELY IN SIGHT, ONE OR TWO STEPS WERE POSSIBLE AND WOULD CONSTITUTE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS. IN HIS VIEW SITUATION ON GROUND IN SOTHERN AFRICA DICTATED NEED FOR UN ACTION. WHILE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS ACTIVE, THEY HAD NO CHANCE TO CHANGE MATTERS IN NEAR FUTURE, IF AT ALL. SWAPO SEVERELY HURT BY 1976 SOUTH AFRICAN MOVE INTO ANGOLA AND ANGOLAN GOVT HAD TO CONTINUALLY COPE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN-SUPPORTED ANGOLANS.

3. YOUNG SUGGESTED THAT DECLARATION HAD SEVERAL PURPOSES. MOST IMPORTANT PURPOSE WAS TO EDUCATE PUBLICS, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND TO DEMONSTRATE TO SOUTH AFRICA THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY WAS WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD RESOLUTION OF
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DIFFICULT ISSUE. HE CITED EVIDENCE OF BROAD PRESS INTEREST AND POSSIBILITY OF COUNTERING MILLIONS OF DOLLARS SPENT BY SOUTH AFRICA. DECLARATION WAS MOST EFFECTIVE IF LEAST CONTROVERSIAL AND INCLUDED SUPPORT OF ALL MAJOR POWERS. CONTROVERSIAL APPROACH MERELY PROVIDED SOME WITH EXCUSE FOR INACTION.

4. WHILE COMPARING PURPOSE OF DECLARATION TO PURPOSES OF AFRICANS AT LUSAKA OR KING FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL, YOUNG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AFRICANS HAD ALREADY CHARTED THEIR COURSE AND HE KNEW THEY WOULD PROCEED. QUESTION WAS WHETHER AFRICANS WERE WILLING TO WORK WITH WESTERN NATIONS ON DIFFERENT TRACK TOWARD SAME GOAL. THE WESTERN PROPOSAL OFFERED SOME HOPE TOWARD PROGRESS IN UN ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES; REJECTION MEANT A CONTINUATION OF THE UN STALEMATE. AMB YOUNG CONCLUDED WITH EXPRESSION OF UNDERSTANDING OF STRONG DESIRE OF AFRICANS FOR A STATEMENT ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ALONG LINES FREQUENTLY ADVOCATED BY AFRICA GROUP. BUT, HE SUGGESTED, DECLARATION WAS A FRAME-

WORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA: A STRONG STATEMENT
WOULD BE LEAST EFFECTIVE; A WEAKER STATEMENT HAD THE
STRONGEST POSSIBILITY OF ACCOMPLISHING DESIRED GOALS. THE
AIM WAS TO PRODUCE THE MOST COMPELLING ARGUMENT WHICH MIGHT
RALLY THOSE IN THE WEST AND THOSE FORCES OF DECENCY IN
SOUTH AFRICA.

5. ETHIOPIA, THE ONLY DELEGATION TO ASK QUESTION,
ASKED WHY WESTERN GOVERNMENTS DIDN'T SIMPLY BACK MEASURES
ADVOCATED BY AFRICANS SINCE SUCH MEASURES ALREADY SUPPORTED
BY GOVERNMENTS. IN RESPONSE AMB YOUNG SUGGESTED THAT
POLICIES OF WESTERN GOVERNMENTS GENERALLY BASED ON PUBLIC
SUPPORT. CURRENT US ADMINISTRATION HAD ALREADY TAKEN STEPS
TO REPEAL BYRD AMENDMENT AND HAD PLACED US SQUARELY ON SIDE
OF MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
YOUNG.
UNQUOTE VANCE.
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